



General Faculties Council
ACADEMIC PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE
APPROVED MINUTES

May 6, 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

A167 (Governors Boardroom)/Zoom

Voting Members

Wendy Benoit (Co-Chair)
Amy Burns (Academic Co-Chair)
Getachew Assefa
Amy Dambrowitz
Jessie Dinh
Cari Gulbrandsen*
Qiao Sun
Leanne Wu

Non-Voting Members

Dora Tam*

Meeting Secretary

Courtney McVie

Scribe

Michelle Speta

Regrets

Samantha Thrift
Christine Johns

Guests

Rebecca Archer*, Co-Associate Dean, Curriculum, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 4
John Remnant, Professor (Teaching), Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 4
James Searcy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – present for Item 4
David Wright, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law – present for Item 5
Andrew Showalter, Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives, Faculty of Law – present for Item 5

Resource Personnel

Kelly Hoglund, Senior Specialist, Academic Initiatives, Provost's Office
Elizabeth Pando*, Program Innovation Partner, Program Innovation Hub
Jessica Revington, Program Innovation Assistant, Program Innovation Hub

**Attended virtually*

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed quorum.

1. Traditional Land Acknowledgement & Approval of the Agenda

Leanne Wu, Associate Professor (Teaching), Faculty of Science, provided the Traditional Land Acknowledgement.

Moved/Seconded

That the Agenda for the May 6, 2024 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

2. Remarks of the Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs provided opening remarks including:

- Welcomed Jessie Dinh, Vice-President (Academic) of the Students' Union, on the occasion of her first meeting
- Thanks to Dora Tam, TUCFA Representative and Amy Burns, Academic Co-Chair for their contributions to the Committee on this occasion of their last meeting
- The GFC Executive Committee will appoint a new Academic Co-Chair at the May 15, 2024 meeting. Any members who are interested in serving in this role are invited to contact the Secretariat before that date.

3. Approval of the April 8, 2024 Minutes

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda.

Moved/Seconded

That the Minutes from the April 8, 2024 Academic Program Subcommittee meeting be approved.

Carried

4. Recommendation of the Changes to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program's Curricular Structure

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine representatives Rebecca Archer, Co-Associate Dean, Curriculum and John Remnant, Professor (Teaching) presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters shared that the proposal is a complete redesign of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program curriculum that would be effective Fall 2025. The key change is the move to a more integrated curriculum that synthesizes content across traditional subject matter areas to present classroom theory in the context of practical experiences.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The Spy Hill Campus does not meet the threshold number of students for Campus Facilities to add food/catering services to that location. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) is addressing this by bringing in higher quality vending machines and working towards improving transportation options between Royal Oak neighbourhood amenities and the campus.
 - The directive to increase student enrolment has provided an opportunity to redesign the curriculum, but the latter would have been necessary even if student enrolment was not changing
 - The new curriculum will emphasize self-regulated learning over didactic teaching, but the intention is that the self-regulated learning will occur within a highly structured framework
 - The integrated curriculum will result in more contact points between course instructors and coordinators. However, because having multiple instructors teaching a single course is common practice in UCVM, the integrated style of teaching is familiar to faculty members.
 - UCVM will be participating in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) during its next cycle to facilitate evaluation of the new curriculum. Pass rates on the post-graduation licensing exam and feedback from local employers will also inform program evaluation.

- The curriculum will be designed to prepare students for the post-graduation licensing exam by following the learning outcomes of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA), which are tested in the exam. The Chief Assessment Officer for the licensing exam, who is also a UCVM faculty member, will be consulted on curriculum design.
- The Committee encouraged the proponents to continue working closely with the Office of the Registrar on the details of the program structure (e.g., number of units, course hours) as well as regulations pertaining to student progress in light of the proposed non-traditional curricular structure
- A suggestion was shared to reword the sentence regarding benefits of self-regulated learning for “the lower quartile of learners” due to potential negative connotation

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the changes to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program’s curricular structure, effective Fall 2025, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried

5. Recommendation of the Creation of the Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law within the Juris Doctor (JD) Program, Faculty of Law

Documentation for this item was circulated with the Agenda. Representatives from the Faculty of Law David Wright, Associate Professor and Andrew Showalter, Coordinator, Indigenous Initiatives presented this item.

Highlights:

- The presenters provided an overview of the proposal noting that it was prompted by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee’s Call to Action to deepen the level of preparedness of the Canadian legal profession to serve the needs of Indigenous peoples in Canada
- The intention of the concentration is to teach students how to engage competently, meaningfully, and respectfully in reconciliation and decolonization, and to prepare lawyers to support access to justice for Indigenous peoples
- The Committee discussed the timeline for implementation, noting the importance of launching the concentration in time for Spring 2025 convocation to allow students who have been part of the development of this proposal to graduate with the concentration. The Calendar entry for the concentration needs to be reviewed by the Law Faculty Council and then approved by the Calendar and Curriculum Subcommittee in the Fall.
- In response to questions, it was explained that:
 - The Faculty of Law can deliver the concentration with current faculty members and sessional instructors. Additionally, Law’s Faculty Council passed a resolution last year to prioritize the hiring of a full-time Indigenous scholar who would be well-positioned to teach the concentration courses.
 - The concentration is open to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and will make the Faculty of Law’s program competitive with other law schools in Canada that offer Indigenous programming
 - The Indigenous Law Students’ Association is supportive of the concentration.

- The Faculty is setting aside grant funding to provide students with financial supports related to experiential learning opportunities (e.g., the *Modern Treaties and the Law* field study course in the Yukon) or to attend relevant conferences (e.g., Indigenous Bar Association Conference)
- Fall registration for Law students opens in June and the Faculty can advise students on the requirements for the concentration to ensure they are on track for completion even before it is officially launched in Winter 2025.

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee recommend that that the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee approve the creation of the Concentration in Aboriginal and Indigenous Law within the Juris Doctor (JD) program in the Faculty of Law, effective Winter 2025, as set out in the proposal provided to the Committee.

Carried**6. Annual Committee Performance Review**

Courtney McVie, University Secretary presented this item for discussion.

Highlights:

- The intention of the annual committee performance review is to provide an opportunity for the Committee to share feedback with the Secretariat as well as the Co-Chairs on the overall operation of the APS, as well as to reflect on the past year as a group
- A recommendation was shared for proponents to get the opportunity to ask questions or request feedback from the Committee on specific aspects of their proposal, which the Secretariat will follow-up on with the Program Innovation Hub
- Appreciation was expressed for Outlook calendar invitations being sent for meetings for the year ahead and gratitude was shared for the work of committee members, the Co-Chairs, and the Secretariat team

7. Approved Revisions to the 2024-2025 GFS and GFS Standing Committees Meeting Schedule and the 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only.

8. Program Approvals Status Report

Documentation was circulated with the Agenda for information only. It was advised that questions can be directed to the Program Innovation Hub.

9. Adjournment

Moved/Seconded

That the Academic Program Subcommittee adjourn the May 6, 2024 meeting.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Courtney McVie
Secretary